

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01433 151258Z

42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EB-03 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 /046 W

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P 142036Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2744

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1433

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: COMMENT ON STRATEGY MEMORANDUM ON ENERGY ISSUES
AT MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE

1. I HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO THE
ON THE WHOLE EXCELLENT ACTION MEMORANDUM PAPER
ORIGINALLY DATED FEBRUARY 1, WHICH YOU KINDLY GAVE US
IN DRAFT FORM IN LIMA LAST WEEC. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH
MY ADVISERS HERE, AND HAVING IN MIND THE PERHAPS WISHFUL
THINKING REFLECTED IN STATE 27793, WE WOULD ONLY RAISE A
WARNING FLAG AS TO THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE ACTION
MEMORANDUM THAT THE SECRETARY TAKE AN
INITIATIVE -- REPEAT INITIATIVE -- TO PUT THE IDB
INTO A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN "CUSHIONING THE DISLOCATIONS
OF NEW OIL PRICES ON THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE
LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES."

2. MY REASON FOR RAISING THIS WARNING FLAG IS THAT,
AS SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF US-VENEZUELAN
RELATIONSHIPS, WE SHOULD NOT, I THINK, AT MEXICO LET
OURSELVES BE INVEIGLED INTO BECOMING THE LEADERS OF
A HUNGRY GROUP OF LDC'S WHOSE PRESENT SOLE SOURCE OF
PETROLEUM SUPPLY IS VENEZUELA.

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EM IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE OIL-HUNGRY LDC'S (E.G., THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS, WHOSE MINISTERS RECENTLY
VISITED CARACAS, PLUS THE CARIBBEAN STATES) ARE SUFFICIENTLY
VOCAL TO STATE THEIR OWN CASE, ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY IN THE
CORRIDORS I WOULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO OUR SHOWING
SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT. IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT I AM
TALKING ABOUT HERE IS TACTICS AND WHETHER INDEED THE
SECRETARY SHOULD INITIATE -- REPEAT INITIATE --
CERTAIN ACTIONS WHICH BY VIRTUE OF NECESSITY WILL BE
SELF-INITIATING ON THE PART OF THE HAVE NOTS TOWARD THE
HAVES. IN ANY EVENT, SINCE VENEZUELA ADMITTEDLY IS
ROLLING IN UNEXPECTED WEALTH, WE WOULD PREFER THAT IF
ANY MONEY HAS TO BE FOUND TO FINANCE LATIN AMERICAN
PETROLEUM DEFICITS IT BE FOUND IN VENEZUELA RATHER THAN
IN THE UNITED STATES.
MCCLINTOCK

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